RNA FOR A BETTER LIFE IN THE HEIGHTS

RIVERVIEW Neighborhood Association

March, 1998

232 Ogden Avenue - Jersey City, N.J. 07307 - (201) 798-0493

RNA IS NOT AFFILIATED WITH ANY POLITICAL PARTY, ORGANIZATION OR ELECTED OFFICIAL

VOTE IN THE ANNUAL RNA ELECTIONS

It's time to elect the individuals who will hold the RNA executive positions of Chair, Vice-chair, Treasurer, Secretary and Sgt.-at-Arms for the 1998 -1999 term. Nominations were opened during the February meeting and will remain open until the end of the March 10th meeting - at which time the voting will take place.

To be eligible to vote and to hold office, you must be 18 years old, paid your annual 1998 dues and live within the boundaries of RNA: Ogden and Palisade Avenues from Cuneo Place to Congress Street. To be nominated, the name of an eligible member is offered by either another person or themselves and then seconded by another member.

The following names have been placed in nomination for RNA executive positions:

CHAIRPERSON:	VITO BRUNETTI (incumbent) ALLISON FONTANA
VICE- CHAIR:	VITO BRUNETTI GARY KENNY KATHY PACKARD MARIA TUZZO (inc.)
SECRETARY:	KATHY PACKARD ALLISON FONTANA (inc.)
TREASURER:	GARY KENNY JACK REA (inc.) CAROL REBELOWSKI
SGT.-AT-ARMS:	ROBERT BOESCH GARY KENNY CAROL REBELOWSKI (inc.)

The success and longevity of RNA has been based on the participation of many different people. Get involved by either nominating someone or being nominated yourself! More important, please come to the meeting and vote in this election. Remember by participating in this important neighborhood activity you will have a voice in the decisions being made in your community.

VOTE FOR A BETTER LIFE IN THE HEIGHTS!

STOP THE VIOLENCE IN OUR NEIGHBORHOOD

Another example of the violence that is plaguing our neigborhood occurred when a local resident was murdered on Mountain Road on February 20th. Victor Gonzalez of Ogden Avenue was killed by a Union City resident in a quarrel concerning his former girlfriend. The suspect, Santiago Domingo, a recent immigrant from Mexico, was arrested several days later and charged with the crime.

[RNA has made a financial donation to the family of Victor Gonzalez for the funeral arrangements to ship the body back to his native country.]

This is the second brutal attack of a local resident on Mountain Road within the last year. Kevin Walsh, a community gardener, was severely beaten by a group of four people on this deserted cliff road in late September. He is reportedly doing well and recuperating at his parents home in northern Jersey. Local residents are concerned that there is much more violence occurring on this road that goes unreported because it stems from such illegal activities as drug dealing and consumption, prostitution, dog fighting, the dumping of construction debris and garage and the abandoning of automobiles.

Traditionally Mountain Road was a popular cobblestoned street that a served as a vital link to Hoboken, downtown Jersey City and the waterfront. It spanned the Palisade cliffs from Franklin Street and Ogden Avenue downward to Hope Street and Patterson Plank Road. It was officially closed by the State about fifteen years ago because the City was unable to properly maintain it. RNA has been petitioning the City ever since to renovate and reopen the road because it has become a no-man's land and center of criminal activity. Highway barriers erected at both sides of the road prevent the patrolling of the area by the police and the cleaning and maintenance by Public Works and the Incinerator Authority. Until this murder, the road was in perpetual darkenss because PSEG did not repair the street and flood lights that were broken or vandalized.

Approximately four years ago, the City received State funding to renovate the road because of the efforts of Councilman Bill Gaughan. Unfortunately, the project was a low priority for the City and nothing was done until the last municipal election. At present plans have been completed and approved by the State and the project goes out for

(continued on page two)

MOUNTAIN ROAD (continued from page one)

public bidding in March. Hopefully the road renovation will begin late spring or early summer of 1998.

However, there is still the problem of what to do with the road until the renovation begins. RNA has reached out to Councilman Gaughan and Lieut. Neirstat, acting commander of the North Precinct to help improve the safety of the road. As we go to print, all the street lights on the road have been repaired and provide a well lit path for any pedestrian traffic after dark. This spring, the police will initiate a walking patrol along Palisade Avenue which will incorporate Mountain Road. Finally RNA has asked that construction fencing be erected immediately on both ends of the street to prevent any activity - legal or illegal - from taking place on this road prior to the commencement of the renovation.

It is indeed a sad comment on Jersey City, that it takes a tragic event like the taking of a life to wake up the City to its responsibilities to safeguard its citizens by providing adequate police patrols and regular maintenance and repair of its superstructure.

It should be noted that during the last year, RNA has waged a rather unsuccessful campaign to motivate the City to provide these basic services. Over one third of the overhead lights in Riverview-Fisk Park have not worked for the last ten months. There is a stretch of New York Avenue along the Palisades that has had no working street lights for over six months. Both of our Parks, Riverview-Fisk and Janet Moore are in much need of regular maintenance. There is a growing number of abandoned housing in our neighborhood that is not being properly supervised by the City. There is a proliferation of local properties that are not properly storing their garbage. There are several busy intersections that the City is reluctant to provide traffic control devices. The list is endless. The Council, Constituent Services, the NID and Public Works have been repeatedly notified but the problems persist.

MEETING MINUTES: FEBRUARY 10, 1998

COMMUNITY POLICING:

Jersey City Police **NTF Officers Kilduff, Schnee** and **Murawinski** and **Lieut. Neirstat**, acting commander of the North Precinct discussed the following topics:

a) Weapons: Officer Shnee fielded questions concerning a recent incident on Palisade Avenue in which another police officer had a hand-to-hand struggle with a person who pulled a handgun. The person fled but was apprehended a few blocks away. The perpetrator had neighborhood connections but lived out of state and had a long arrest record.

There was also an update on the police officer who had been recently shot at the front desk in the West District Precinct house. He was doing well and should be out of intensive care within the week.

b) Auto Break-ins in Riverview-Fisk Park: The rash of car break-ins continued unabated through much of the month. Someone has been breaking the windows of cars parked overnight in the Park and stealing their contents. There has been an average of 1 to 2 break-ins a night. The police have set up night patrols to catch this villain. Anyone parking in or near the Park was cautioned not to leave any good visible in their vehicles.

The police announced that two people had already been arrested for car break-ins in the Heights and one of them had committed 40 break-ins just looking for "loose change". It is also strongly recommended that any one victimized by these break-ins immediately report these crimes to the North District police.

A request was made for the police to check 454 Palisade Avenue for trespassers who could possibly be the person responsible for the break-ins. The building although boarded up by the City a month ago, can still be entered by the roof or window from the next building.

RNA strongly advises all local residents living around or using the Park to keep an eye out for any suspicious behavior in the Park.

c) Commander of the North District: Lieut. Neirstat has taken over as acting commander of the North District because Captain Gutch his predecessor was unable to continue in that position. Both officers are temporarily replacing Captain Donald Meyers who has been on medical leave and will return in March.

SPRING ACTIVITIES:

a) Community Garden: The City has retrieved a 100 square foot section of Park land that had been taken by an adjacent resident. It will be incorporated into the public garden. Gardeners are asked to sign up for plots and a meeting will be announced for March to discuss the coming season.

Louie Ramos, the park attendant for Janet Moore Park located on the corner of Ogden and Cuneo will ask local residents if they would like participate in the of setting up a community garden in that Park.

The City has recommended that a 1" diamond chainlink fence be installed on the westerly and southerly portions of Moore Park to discourage vandals from bending the existing tubular steel fence in order to gain entry after the Park closes in the evening. RNA will request that this new fencing be installed over the tubular fencing to reenforce it.

b) Flea Market: The meeting agreed to hold this year's event on Saturday, June 6th, with a raindate of June 13th. Volunteers are needed for the organizing committee to make all the arrangements.

c) Spring Clean-up: The first weekend of May was chosen for RNA's annual clean-up weekend. Two dumpsters will be reserved from the JCIA and placed on Franklin and Hobson Streets between Palisade and Ogden Avenues. Volunteers are needed to help organize a community clean-up activity for that weekend.

d) Summer Sports and Music Concerts: Members were asked to suggest what types of activities they would like to have the City's Dept. of Recreation and Cultural Affairs organize for young children in Riverview-Fisk Park this summer. Volleyball, soccer, wiffleball and kickball were discussed. It was noted that the Park is not set up for organized activities such as football or baseball which will destroy the grass lawns. Volunteers are also needed to supervise these sports.

RNA also asked members to consider what type of live music concerts they would like to hear this summer in the Park - popular, rock, salsa, classical or jazz.

FINANCIAL REPORT:

RNA Treasurer **Jack Rea** informed the meeting that because of our non-profit status, Summit Bank has credited $99.00 of service charges that were mistakenly deducted from our accounts. The Bank is working on permanently eliminating future month charges.

NID DISCUSSION:

a) NID North 7: NID Manager **Laura Petersen** and CEO **Carol Pasquale** reported that Holland Street is officially open. Mr. Armstrong of City engineering has determined that the Holland Street overpass is stable enough to allow the road to remain open until major renovations are effected. It was suggested that Mr. Armstrong be invited to a future meeting to explain the status of the Holland Street renovation project.

The Incinerator Authority has provided county inmate work crews to clean up the dumping on Holland Street and the abandoned garages on Paterson Plank Road. A suggestion was made to fence off these garages to prevent future dumping.

Someone asked for better street lighting at the intersection of Congress Street and Paterson Plank Road. There was also a discussion about the timing changes of the traffic control lights at the intersection of Paterson Plank Road in front of the Doric Apartments.

Ms. Pasquale discussed the possibility that the City's residential parking program will be expanded to our community in the future. This program allows non-residents to only park for two hours in residential neighborhoods. RNA stated that before implementing a version of this program in our area that the city would hold public meeting to gather input, as was recently done recently in the Sgt. Anthony community.

It was announced that 454 Palisade Avenue was purchased by a Dr. Martin of Weston, Conn. It appears that she has been receiving our newsletter and communicating with the local NID. RNA will attempt to directly contact Dr. Martin to discuss this and other recently purchased local properties on Palisade Avenue.

It was also announced that Municipal Prosecutor Dennis Selerno has begun prosecuting Nuisance Complaints against die-hard property owners who fail to correct their code violations after receiving 2 or more summons.

b) NID North 6: After many complaints from local residents, NID Manager **Ron Clemente** has finally issued a summons to the owner of 242 Ogden Avenue for their refusal to properly store garage in their front yard. He has also been enforcing the dog leash and clean-up ordinances.

A complaint was made concerning the chronic problem of dogs littering on Woods Place. There was the discussion about the City promise to eliminate the southern sidewalk to increase parking for local residents.

Work orders were put in for pot holes in our area.

A request was made for street sweeping signage at Griffith and Ogden. The apartment building at 274 Ogden was given a notice to properly store their garage that is continually littering the cliff and Park.

The owners of 266-74 Palisade Avenue have been noticed about the throwing of garage and other debris out their tenant's windows onto the Palisade cliffs and along New York Avenue.

A request was made to remove the unauthorized newspaper boxes located on the corners of Palisade Avenue. These boxes have caused an increase of litter, a place for undesirable persons to sit and hang-out and a place for grafitti to spread. Diane Markowtiz of the Incinerator Authority will be contacted because of the success she had in eliminating these boxes on Central Avenue. [See the following article for NID reports.]

Allison Ferrari Fontana, Secretary

NID MONTHLY REPORTS

NORTH SEVEN: Laura Petersen is the NID manager for this District which includes Ogden and Palisade Avenues from Griffith Street to Congress Street. **Carol Pasquale** is the Code Enforcement Officer. They have provided the following activity report:

a) **454 Palisade Avenue**: On January 14, 1998 this vacant building was finally boarded by the Dept. of Public Works, Unit #9242. Currently this building is in the process of being purchased by a Dr. Martin of Weston Connecticut. Dr. Martin has recently purchased 450 and 452 Palisade Avenue as well as other properties in North 6 District.;

b) **Holland Street**: The Incinerator Authority's inmate crew has been handling large-scale clean-ups of Holland Street as well as periodically sweeping the pedestrian walkway area of Paterson Plank Road.;

c) **Paterson Plank Road**: Both the JCIA's inmate crew and the North 7's student crew were utilized to clean the five garage bays on Paterson Plank Road, completing the project on January 29, 1998. Manager will continue to monitor the area. Hudson County Road Department completed replacement of damaged roadside railing on January 20, 1998.;

e) **Riverview-Fisk Park**: On or about February 3, 1998, a section of railing fell off the pavilion. The open space was roped off to prevent accidents. The rail section was transported to Public Works to prevent theft. Reinstallation of the rail will be completed by the Division of Building and Facility Maintenance. [The railing was replaced within the week.]

Manager continues to monitor the Park's lighting problem. Currently floodlight #67112JC is out of service and estimated date of completion is February 19, 1998 through work order #040294390. [As we go to press, the floodlight has not been repaired and there are now approximately ten lights that are not working in the Park.]

Laura Petersen can be contacted by voice mail at **547-4974, extension 8021.**

NORTH SIX: Ronald Clemente is the NID manager for this District which includes Ogden and Palisade Avenues from Cuneo Place to Griffith Street. He did not provide a report for this month.

Mr. Clemente can be contacted through his voice mail at **547-4974, extension 8015.**

Bulletin board

Thank You

To all our friends and neighbors at the RNA:

The family of Rosalinda and Dominic Rea was very touched at the beautiful tribute in the newsletter. I am sure they would have appreciated it.

We also thank you for the prayers and all you have done to help us at this very trying time. Thank you.

Bianca, Charlie, Tom and family

MARCH

Top of the Morning to You,
Happy St Pat's!
Also don't forget St. Joseph's,
Won't be long now and Spring will be here,
Also, RNA is looking forward to their Flea Market.
HAPPY ST. PAT'S!

Madeline Rea

From Valerie's Kitchen:

Sesame Baked Chicken

INGREDIENTS:

- 1 tbsp. lemon juice
- 1 tbsp. gravy master
- 2 tbsps. vegetable oil
- 1/2 tsp. poultry seasoning
- salt and pepper to taste
- 1/2 cup of sesame seed
- 1 (2 1/2 to 3 pound) frying chicken cut up

1) Arrange chicken pieces in baking pan.
2) Combine lemon juice, gravy master, oil and poultry seasoning.
3) Brush mixture over chicken pieces.
4) Sprinkle with salt and pepper and sesame seeds.
5) Cover and bake at 400 degrees for one hour.
6) Uncover and bake for 15 to 20 minutes longer.
7) Serves four persons.

CONTRIBUTE TO YOUR NEWSLETTER

Tell us what you think about the quality of life in your neighborhood? Have your voice heard! Deliver all articles and comments in the mailbox, on the gate, at 232 Ogden Ave. Mark the envelope, "RNA NEWSLETTER." Deadline is **Friday, March 27, 1998**.

Recycle this Newsletter - Pass it on to a friend!

POLICEBEAT

Residents should contact their **Neighborhood Task Force Police Officers Scott Schnee and Lorenzo Tosado, David Murawinski** or **Mark Conroy and Keith Armstrong** if they have a problem, a safety concern or knowledge of criminal activity at **547-5350** (the North District station's frontdesk) or **547-5719** (community service number). When leaving a message, include your name, telephone number, street address, the nature of the problem and the date and time of the message.

In addition, anyone with information about illegal drug use and/or drug dealing, should contact the JCPD **Narcotics Unit** at **547-5391**. All calls will be strictly confidential.

A **Community Service Survey** form is reprinted below. The purpose of the form is to alert the police to particular chronic problems in our neighborhood. Please fill the form out and mail it to the North District at 282 Central Avenue. (You can remain anonymous.)

JERSEY CITY POLICE DEPARTMENT
NORTH DISTRICT
282 Central Avenue, Jersey City, 07307
547-5350: Front Desk
547-5719: Neighborhood Task Force

Community Service Survey

Name:_____
Address:_____
Home Phone:_____
Block Association:_____
Complaint & Observations for the period of_____

List the Locations for the following Problems:

Disorderly Groups:_____
Public Nuisances: _____
Narcotics Activity:_____
Unsafe/Unhealthy Sites: _____
Suspicious Activity:_____
Heavy Trucking: _____
Auto Thefts:_____
Burglaries:_____
Prostitution: _____
Gambling:_____
Other:_____

NEWSLETTER STAFF

EDITOR: Vito Brunetti
CONTRIBUTORS: Greg Brickey, Allison Ferrari-Fontana, Patrick Moore, Kathy Packard, Jack Rea, Madeline Rea, Valerie Rea, Maria Tuzzo, Rosemary Venter
GRAPHICS: Russell Pratt, Raquel Sweeney
CIRCULATION: Jack Rea, Carol Rebelowski, Maria Tuzzo

COME TO OUR NEXT MEETING on MARCH 10th at 7:15 PM at the HARBOR VIEW HEALTH CARE CENTER.

M. SASSO
201-420-7240

Maria's
Custom Dressmaking
Drapery, Uniforms, Alterations

114 Bower's Street Jersey City, NJ 07307

SERVING THE HUDSON COUNTY COMMUNITY SINCE 1890

STATE LISC.#6666

10% SENIOR CITIZEN DISC.

WERNER BROS., INC.

PLUMBING AND HEATING
COMMERCIAL AND RESIDENTIAL
INSTALLATIONS • ALTERATIONS • REPAIRS
LICENSE #6666
WATER FILTRATION SYSTEMS
FOR REMOVAL OF LEAD AND CONTAMINANTS.

63 IRVING STREET
JERSEY CITY, NJ 07307
PHONE 659-4441

PHONE 656-5472
33 YEARS
EXPERIENCE

SDS BICYCLE SHOP

SALES REPAIR ACCESSORIES
ALL MAKES & MODELS
SPECIALISTS ON 3•5•10•15•18 SPEED

TONY
PRESIDENT

351 PALISADE AVENUE
JERSEY CITY, NJ 07307

Telephone (201) 864-7450

A&P ELECTRICAL CONTRACTORS

A P

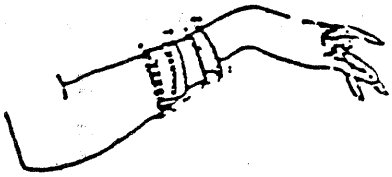
Electrical, Heating, Ventilation and Air Conditioning Contractors

PEDRO ARANA
President

338 Palisade Avenue
Jersey City, NJ 07307
Business Perms
State License No. 4592-A

Tel. 659-1263

Sam Koralja, Prop.



Sam's Jewelers

335 PALISADE AVENUE
Jersey City, NJ 07307

TRAFFIC, ENGRAVED & CUSTOM SIGNS
CUSTOM, BANNERS & FLAGS
DECALS, MAGNETIC SIGNS
DIRECTORY PRODUCTS

201-656-1991
Fax 201-656-1764

CRAFT INDUSTRIES

Robert Iessi

339 Palisade Avenue, Jersey City, NJ 07307

201-659-2668 **Fax 201-659-9274**

Signs & Graphics

DIVISION OF ERIC'S INC.
DESIGNING,FABRICATING & INSTALLING
OF ALL KIND OF SIGNS

ERIC MORTIMER
Administrator

330 Palisade Avenue
Jersey City NJ 07307

JERSEY CITY,S FAMILY FUN CENTER

401 PALISADE AVENUE
201-656-5994

HAVE YOUR NEXT BIRTHDAY PARTY WITH US!!!
"WE'VE GOT IT ALL"

BOTANICA

CONSULTAS

NUESTRA SENORA DEL LORETO

333 PALISADE AVENUE
JERSEY CITY

796-2060

JOYERIA

ARTICULOS
PARA FIESTAS

PHOENIX PROPERTIES

Eve Krukis
BROKER OWNER

912 Kennedy Boulevard Union City, NJ 07307

Office 201 330-1899
Fax 201 330-1434

Have a Voice in Your Community by
Voting for your RNA officers at the next meeting
on Tuesday, MARCH 10th at 7:15 PM

FOR A BETTER LIFE IN THE HEIGHTS

SUPPORT
RNA
by paying your
ANNUAL
MEMBERSHIP
DUES of $7.00

RIVERVIEW NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION
232 OGDEN AVENUE
JERSEY CITY, NEW JERSEY 07307

BULK RATE
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
JERSEY CITY, N.J.
07302
PERMIT # 153
CAR.-RT. PRESORT

RIVERVIEW NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

FOR A BETTER LIFE IN THE HEIGHTS

RNA

Vito Brunetti
Chairperson

Maria Tuzzo
Vice-chairperson

Allison Ferrari-Fontana
Secretary

Jack Rea
Treasurer

Carol Rebelowski
Sgt. at Arms

COMING EVENTS

RNA MEETING: Tuesday, March 10th at 7:15 PM
LOCATION: THE HARBOR VIEW HEALTH CARE CENTER

1) **ANNUAL ELECTION FOR RNA OFFICERS**
2) **POLICE and NID REPORTS**
3) **DISCUSSION OF UPCOMING ACTIVITIES:**
   * **14th Annual RNA Flea Market**
   * **Spring Clean-up and Dumpster Weekend**
   * **Community gardens and flower gardens in our Parks**
   * **Summer Sports Activities and Music Concerts**
   * **New Ideas and Projects for our Community**

COMMUNITY GARDENERS:

Volunteers interested in reserving space in our community gardens in Riverview-Fisk Park or setting up a new garden in Janet Moore Park, should come and sign up at our March meeting.